

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 05208 151353Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----044664 151354Z /43

O R 151305Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2709

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NY

S E C R E T JIDDA 5208

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, LE, SA

SUBJ: CRISIS IN LEBANON

REF: (A) BEIRUT 3865, (B) STATE 174090

1. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ABD AL-RAHMAN MANSURI TELEPHONED  
POL COUNSELOR NIGHT OF JULY 14 TO SAY THAT IN ANSWER TO OUR  
TELEPHONE QUERY OF NIGHT OF JULY 12, PURPOSE OF FOREIGN  
MINISTER PRINCE SAUD'S TRIP TO DAMASCUS ON JULY 10 WAS TO  
DISCUSS LEBANESE CRISIS. PRINCE SAUD ASKED THAT WE CONVEY  
TO DEPARTMENT REQUEST THAT WE DO EVERYTHING WE COULD TO  
PERSUADE PHALANGE NOT TO ATTACK SYRIANS AND PROVOKE THEM  
INTO TURNING THEIR PRESENCE IN LEBANON INTO OUTRIGHT OCCU-  
PATION. PRINCE SAUD UNDERSTOOD FROM ASSAD THAT SYRIANS  
WOULD RESTRAIN THEMSELVES IF NOT ATTACKED. MANSURI SAID

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 JIDDA 05208 151353Z

THAT PRINCE SAUD ASKED THAT U.S. ALSO USE ITS INFLUENCE TO  
PERSUADE ISRAEL NOT TO INTERVENE. ISRAEL SHOULD NOT PRO-  
VOKE SYRIANS OR ENCOURAGE CHRISTIAN RIGHTISTS TO PROVOKE  
SYRIANS. SAG PREFERENCES THAT LEBANON NOT BE PARTITIONED.  
IT WANTS TO SEE AUTHORITY OF SARKIS BOLSTERED AND CHRISTIAN  
RIGHTISTS SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO GIVE UP SOME OF THEIR  
POWER AND TO SUPPORT SARKIS.

2. POL COUNSELOR TOLD MANSURI THAT WE WERE ALREADY BENDING EVERY EFFORT TO DIRECTION PRINCE SAUD DESIRED. WE HOPED THAT SAUDI ARABIA WOULD ALSO WORK TO INFLUENCE ALL PARTIES TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT. WE APPRECIATE EVERYTHING AMBASSADOR SHAIR IS DOING AND WE HOPE HE WILL CONTINUE HIS EFFORTS. MANSURI SAID THAT SAUDI AMBASSADOR WOULD OF COURSE CONTINUE TO BE ACTIVE BUT THAT HE HAD NO INFLUENCE WITH PHALANGE OR CHAMOUNISTS.

3. MANSURI ASKED WHEN WALDHEIM WAS GOING TO BEIRUT. POL COUNSELOR SAID THAT IT WAS NOT YET CERTAIN THAT HE WAS GOING TO BEIRUT. HOWEVER, SAUDI GAZETTE AND ARAB NEWS HAD CARRIED ANNOUNCEMENT ON JULY 12 THAT HE WAS COMING TO SAUDI ARABIA AND SYRIA AFTER HIS VISIT TO KHARTOUM. MANSURI SAID HE DID NOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT WALDHEIM COMING TO SAUDI ARABIA BUT THAT HE WOULD CHECK ON IT.

4. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION, MANSURI SAID HE DID NOT KNOW OF ANY COMMON ARAB EFFORT ON LEBANON.

5. COMMENT. JUDGING FROM THIS CONVERSATION, PRINCE SAUD MUST HAVE BEEN REASSURED ON SYRIAN MOTIVES DURING HIS TRIP TO DAMASCUS. DURING OUR CONVERSATION WITH MANSURI ON JULY 10, WE GATHERED SAG WAS CONVINCED THAT ASSAD WAS SIMPLY LOOKING FOR PRETEXT TO OCCUPY LEBANON OUTRIGHT.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 JIDDA 05208 151353Z

IT SEEMS THAT SAUD NOW THINKS THAT ASSAD DOES NOT HAVE SUCH A DESIGN AND THAT HE STILL SUPPORTS SARKIS.

6. LOCAL PRESS JULY 15 GIVES JULY 17 AS DATE FOR WALDHEIM'S VISIT TO SYRIA AND JULY 20 FOR TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA.  
DANIELS

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z

**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994

**Channel Indicators:** n/a

**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED

**Concepts:** MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION

**Control Number:** n/a

**Copy:** SINGLE

**Draft Date:** 15 jul 1978

**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014

**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW

**Disposition Action:** RELEASED

**Disposition Approved on Date:**

**Disposition Case Number:** n/a

**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW

**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014

**Disposition Event:**

**Disposition History:** n/a

**Disposition Reason:**

**Disposition Remarks:**

**Document Number:** 1978JIDDA05208

**Document Source:** CORE

**Document Unique ID:** 00

**Drafter:** n/a

**Enclosure:** n/a

**Executive Order:** GS

**Errors:** N/A

**Expiration:**

**Film Number:** D780290-1240

**Format:** TEL

**From:** JIDDA

**Handling Restrictions:**

**Image Path:**

**ISecure:** 1

**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780757/aaaabvqi.tel

**Line Count:** 100

**Litigation Code IDs:**

**Litigation Codes:**

**Litigation History:**

**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

**Message ID:** 12d50773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

**Office:** ACTION SS

**Original Classification:** SECRET

**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS

**Original Previous Classification:** n/a

**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a

**Page Count:** 2

**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a

**Previous Classification:** SECRET

**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS

**Reference:** 78 BEIRUT 3865, 78 STATE 174090

**Retention:** 0

**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED

**Review Content Flags:**

**Review Date:** 29 jun 2005

**Review Event:**

**Review Exemptions:** n/a

**Review Media Identifier:**

**Review Release Date:** n/a

**Review Release Event:** n/a

**Review Transfer Date:**

**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a

**SAS ID:** 1997860

**Secure:** OPEN

**Status:** NATIVE

**Subject:** CRISIS IN LEBANON

**TAGS:** PINT, LE, SA

**To:** STATE

**Type:** TE

**vdkgvgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/12d50773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

**Review Markings:**

Sheryl P. Walter

Declassified/Released

US Department of State

EO Systematic Review

20 Mar 2014

**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014